

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CITY OF ASHEVILLE / BUNCOMBE COUNTY</b> <b>EMERGENCY 911 PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT (PSAP)</b> <b>April 4, 2006</b></p>
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**1. Background**

- a. In 2003, at a City Council budget retreat, city staff proposed separating from the Buncombe PSAP and creating a separate PSAP for the City of Asheville.
- b. County Commission Chairman Ramsey stepped forward with a proposal to construct a new joint PSAP for the city and the county, slated to be in operation in early 2006.
- c. In the interim period between 2003 and 2006, Buncombe offered to directly dispatch Asheville Fire & Rescue at no cost to the city.
- d. City Council accepted the County offer and authorized an interlocal agreement to establish a consolidated 911 emergency communication center on September 2, 2003. This agreement defined County obligations, City obligations, and termination processes. (copy of agreement attached)
- e. In December, 2005, City Council supported city staff's recommendation requesting a one year extension of the existing interlocal agreement to allow the County additional time to construct a new joint emergency 911 communications facility.
- f. To this point, the city and the county staffs have both fully followed the interlocal agreement as written, and amended.
- g. Within the existing agreement, the city and county both agree that they will execute a formal joint agreement for the operation of the consolidated center. This agreement must be in place prior to placing the joint center into operation.

**2. Next Step**

- a. In order to form an operational plan for the new center, first, an organizational structure must be agreed upon by both parties in order to establish the joint center.
  - i. Several best practices models exist to accomplish this organizational structure:
    - 1. Full county operation
    - 2. Full city operation
    - 3. City or County operation with a user advisory committee
    - 4. Joint City/County policy board
    - 5. Others...

**3. City Staff Recommendation**

- a. Follow the joint City/County policy board model
  - i. 911 staff are county employees
  - ii. A professional emergency 911 communications center director is hired and reports directly to a policy board comprised equally of city and county designees.